

MT COOK! MOBILISED

Mt Cook Mobilised

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No 10 - November 2011

Welcome to Mt Cook Mobilised. We celebrate the tenth issue of our newsletter which has kept you informed of events in Mt Cook, and about your residents' and community group. We welcome your input on any issue concerning Mt Cook. Many thanks again to the Southern Cross, 39 Abel Smith St, for sponsoring the printing.

Peter Cooke

Mt Cook Mobilised sprang to life when widespread concerns were raised about development plans for Mt Cook. It has evolved into a group that both serves residents' concerns (by talking to Council and voicing opinions on public issues) and works to strengthen the Mt Cook community. We do this through events, local projects and talking to the many institutions and special interest groups situated in Mt Cook.

We are always happy to hear from you, and welcome your involvement in Mt Cook. To ask questions or make suggestions, or receive our e-bulletin, email mtcookmobilised@gmail.com or visit <http://mtcookmobilised.pbworks.com>.

Though not an event organised by MCM, a number of members linked arms to Save the Basin on 25 September. We did however make a strong submission to WCC on how it should respond to the NZ Transport Agency plans for solving



traffic congestion around the Basin Reserve. Our submission centred on taking a long-term view, doing the best for Memorial Park while preserving the quiet heritage character of the precinct.



Aug 2007
Public Meeting
MCM formed



July 2008
MCM Newsletter #1



March 2009
New Wallace St Crossing



Oct 2011
Spring Fling #2

Jan 2008
Supermarket site
flattened, BGI
façade retained



Sept 2008
Papawai Reserve
Working Bee #1

Dec 2008
Mini Cookies
Playgroup formed



Dec 2010
Mt Cook Play Area open



*Brief History of
Mt Cook Mobilised*

ELECTION CANDIDATES SPEAK ABOUT TRENCHING

Mt Cook Mobilised asked **Wellington Central** candidates for their party's view on an issue dear to our hearts - trenching Buckle Street and making a decent Memorial Park! We would like to thank candidates for their responses on a topic which we believe deserves to be discussed nationally. In order received:

LABOUR

Grant Robertson is the incumbent MP for Wellington Central. Grant belongs to the Labour Party and one of his roles is that of Labour's Associate Spokesperson on Arts, Culture and Heritage - the department which first put forward the idea of a Memorial Park, under the previous Labour administration.

The following statement is authorised by Grant Robertson, 220 Willis St, Wellington:

I strongly support the creation of a contiguous War Memorial Park across Buckle St. This memorial should be an appropriate commemoration of those who have served our country, and a positive addition to the landscape and environment of Mt Cook. It will be neither of these things if State Highway One runs through the middle of it. I favour Option X as the proposal that allows for a tunnel under Buckle St, and also avoids the need for the construction of the flyover beside the Basin Reserve. Option X also will also create further green space in the area. Labour's Arts, Culture and Heritage policy will include specific commitments around the creation of the War Memorial Park, and as local MP I will continue the lobbying and advocacy I have done in this term to see an appropriate Memorial Park created.

NATIONAL

Paul Foster-Bell is the National Candidate for Wellington Central. National policy has guided the recent NZTA roading re-

view of State Highway 1, with decisions about Memorial Park being rolled into the mix.

The following statement is authorised by Paul Foster-Bell, 11-22, 72 Taranaki St, Wellington:

John Key's National government has committed over \$2 billion of investment into Wellington's regional transport infrastructure so we can enjoy quicker, safer, cheaper and greener travel around our city and beyond.

Wellingtonians have had an opportunity to give feedback on which design for the Mt Victoria tunnel, Basin Reserve and Buckle St upgrades they prefer. Wellington City Council have also put forward their views.

Heritage Minister Christopher Finlayson ensured resources will be available to finish the War Memorial Park project, the first phase of which has been completed. The final phases will be timed to fit in with the upcoming roading changes.

I would personally back a



'trench and cover' solution being developed for the area in front of the National War Memorial as a cost effective option to protect the heritage values of that sacred site.

I ask for your vote so this work can proceed, thank you.

GREEN

The Green Party candidate for Wellington Central is James Shaw.

The following statement on behalf of the Green Party is

authorised by Jon Field, Level 2, 17 Garrett Street, Wellington:

The NZTA proposes to build a flyover next to the Basin Reserve, double the Mount Victoria tunnel and widen Ruahine Street and Wellington Road. The proposal does not meet Wellington's inner-city transport needs. It will erode the character of the city, making it a less attractive place to live and do business.

The business case is not robust enough to warrant such a costly project. Funds could be better spent investing in public transport, cycling and walking. The NZTA should fast-track light rail from the Railway Station to the Airport. This would greatly improve transport out to the airport at a much lower cost.

If NZTA go ahead with a roadwork, then the Greens prefer Option X over Options A and B. Option X preserves the aspects of both the War Memorial and Basin Reserve, doesn't cut Newtown off from the city, and builds

in a future light rail route.

MAORI

The Maori Party is not standing a candidate in the Wellington Central electorate, which falls within Te Tai Tonga electorate. Rahui Katene is the sitting MP for Te Tai Tonga. Her roles include those of Maori Party spokesperson for Environment, Finance, and she has also been a member of the Finance & Expenditure Select Committee

in John Key's government.

The following statement is authorised by Rāhui Kātene, Parliament Buildings, Wellington:

The Māori Party is committed to encouraging the use of public transport wherever possible. We want to shift the focus off private car use to one where public transport, walking and cycling are core. We want to rebuild neighbourhoods, focus on community safety and be connected to our environment.

I would like to see improved urban design and rail, rather than motorways, extended to the airport.

My immediate concern is to have mana whenua, Te Āti Awa, involved in the design and planning process of the national war memorial park, including restoration of the original name of the hill, Pukeahu. We should also include their relationship and heritage passed down from Te Aro Pā.

We should also ensure that every aspect of the landscape around the national war memorial enables us to uphold kaitiakitanga – that sense of protection and guardianship of our natural landscape, our people, our history.

ACT

The ACT Party candidate for Wellington Central is Stephen Whittington. Stephen takes a very pragmatic view, focusing on the country's ability to pay today ahead of the legacy we leave for tomorrow. Interestingly, the option that NZTA is least keen on is the 'do nothing' option.

The following statement is authorised by Garry Mallett, 809 River Road, Hamilton:

I am personally opposed to Option X. The preliminary assessment of Option X indicates that there are significant safety concerns associated with this option, with less potential for improved pedestrian and cyclist access. The main concern,

however, has to be the substantial cost. Considering that the Government borrows \$300 million a week, and has no plan to return us to surplus, ACT is campaigning to curb the growth in government expenditure. Accordingly, to the extent new roading proposals are considered, cost has to be one of the prime concerns.

In respect of option A and B, I am also concerned at the low cost-benefit ratios of both of those options, considering the reduction in the discount rate in 2008, which has the effect of inflating long-term benefits relative to short-term costs. I believe a decision should be postponed until the Government's books allow for consideration of all options.

ALSO RANS...

NZ First and United Future were also approached for comment, but did not provide their views.

WHY SO HOT ON MEMORIAL PARK?

The people of Mt Cook have a sense of kaitiakitanga for the suburb - the natural environment, history and heritage of this area (once known as Pukeahu). Recently NZ celebrated the awesome achievements of our warriors on the rugby field; as a nation we feel the same passion for the deeds of our fighting forebears and modern military personnel who have lost their lives through conflict and peace-support operations around the globe.

A small part of this respect involves our adoption of and support for Memorial Park, next to the National War Memorial, in central Wellington. What small price is it to pay to trench Buckle Street under the proposed park so that the honour of the fallen can be fully sensed in a quiet and dignified setting?



BE CREATIVE... HERE

A new art form has hit Mt Cook over the last year or so – fabric art on metal link fences.

The various installations on Buckle Street have been a source of amusement and pleasure since they started about two years ago – with messages, symbols and pictures sewn onto the fence. The most recent exhortation to BE CREATIVE is a wonderful reminder of the energy and inspiration that so many students, designers and knitters bring to living in Mt Cook.

A new one appeared a few weeks ago – HERE – in pieces of broken mirror fixed to the fence of the old tennis courts in

Tasman Street. In the morning it glitters and projects dancing lights on to the pavement as I head to work with my head full of the day's plans – a reminder to loosen up, enjoy and be here.

A month or so ago I noticed bells tied to ribbons in a tree in my street – about the same time as garlands of leaves and flowers were woven among cabbage trees in the path above Tasman Street.

These fairy artists, or maybe guerrilla artists, liven up our suburb. With this brief note I say thank you - to whoever you are - for brightening up my everyday walk along Tasman and Buckle Streets. A reminder to us all to stop and take pleasure in these random works of art.

THIS WAY UP

Two brothers, Cameron and Matt Walker, run an access and billboard installation business, This Way Up, out of an historic brick warehouse in Rolleston St. With five boom trucks (or “cherry pickers”) they can be found around Wellington, up the sides of buildings fixing up billboards - usually printed on vinyl “skins”. Recently, they installed “Save our Basin”, on the side of the Marksman motel. Sometimes a truck is hired out, but mostly Cam and Matt do all the jobs themselves. The biggest truck can reach up to nine stories (27 metres). Wind and rain can delay installations, and make for cold work. To avoid traffic, installations may be done at night. Truck maintenance is constant, the hoists need regular greasing, and steam-cleaning of the gear is ongoing. The team of two work hard and are enthusiastic about their business. One fun job was lifting up the Red Bull “girls” in the hoist basket for a ▶



WHO'S TO SAY THIS CAN'T BECOME MT COOK'S NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE?

NZHPT-registered, 18 Buckle St was certainly suggested so by Wraight Athfield Architects in their first plan for Memorial Park. Mt Cook Mobilised would welcome the facility, whether re-located within the park or not, as a suburban community centre. It was built as a catholic creche in 1914 and is strongly associated with Sister Suzanne Aubert, a Daughter of Our Lady of Compassion. Later it was used as a soup kitchen, classroom, home and studio. Architect John Swan designed the castellations.

► promotion. Installing giant individual letters up the side of a hotel was also memorable.

On the street, while a truck is being cleaned, passing residents chat, wave or watch (and offer advice!). It feels friendly and neighbourly. Cam started This Way Up in the warehouse six years ago. He likes Mt Cook, spends a lot of time here, and finds it an awesome location.

The old brick building is one of the oldest on Rolleston St. It housed sack merchants until the 1980s, then Woods Waste (who cut one of the door lintels) before Hanging Around and now This Way Up. It might have earlier been an army surplus business and apparently a boat named *Big Red* (currently at Southward Car Museum) was built there.



Mt Cook PLAYGROUND

Recent improvements include two park benches and a crossing island on Hutchison Road – much appreciated by parents! The playground is getting plenty of use, and this will increase over the summer months. The Mini Cookies are using the area for their monthly playgroup (with Junglerama, across the road if it is wet). Until MCM gets a proper noticeboard, a waterproof poster advertising community events sits well on the wooden fences.

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

A new WCC grants pool of \$100,000 is intended for community projects that encourage neighbours to get to know each other. Projects might include community gardening (purchase of tools and plants), a street festival, or an arts scheme. They must be for a street or local area (including apartments), and have some way of promoting community resilience and contributing to emergency preparedness. The final funding round is 30 March 2012. Applicants need to be linked to a recognised group, or apply under their umbrella. For more information: contact Wellington City Council on 499 4444, or go to www.wcc.govt.nz

SPRING FLING OCTOBER 2011

A sunny breezy day encouraged around 150 folk to be a part of the Mt Cook community picnic in beautiful Papawai Reserve. Revellers arrived from many surrounding streets – from nearby Wright Street to Drummond and Myrtle, off Adelaide Road. Bales of pea straw gave a city-rural look, providing seating, and the supports for a slide. Numerous happy little Mt Cookies ran around enjoying themselves, and the kids' races, including sack, three-legged and egg and spoon races. Face painting and the tempting array of donated party food topped off the day. Pleasure in community and getting to know each other was very evident. Councillor Stephanie Cook opened the event, celebrating the renaissance of small community groups like Mt Cook Mobilised. If we thought the Fling last year was good, this was even better!

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community

SUNDAY ROAST

\$18 WITH A SOFT DRINK



SOUTHERNCROSS
GARDEN · BAR · RESTAURANT



Wellington Community Childcare Association

Places available for children 12 months – 5 years

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130 Adelaide Road, Mt Cook ☎ Open Mon-Fri 7:45 – 5:30

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days for
\$30



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